



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/823,137	04/13/2004	Craig D. Quarberg	20040030.ORI	4527
23595	7590	02/10/2006	EXAMINER	
NIKOLAI & MERSEREAU, P.A. 900 SECOND AVENUE SOUTH SUITE 820 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402			LUGO, CARLOS	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3676	

DATE MAILED: 02/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/823,137	QUARBERG, CRAIG D.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Carlos Lugo	3676	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 January 2006.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 8-19 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 8-19 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 13 April 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to applicant's amendment filed on January 19, 2006.
2. **Claims 8,10,14 and 16 are objected to** because of the following informalities:
 - Claim 8 Line 6, change "said pole member" to -said plurality of pole members-.
 - Claim 10 Line 1, change "the pole member" to -the plurality of pole members-.
 - Claim 10 Line 3, change "the pole member" to -the plurality of pole members-.
 - Claim 10 Line 4, change "said pole member" to -said plurality of pole members-.
 - Claim 14 Line 6, change "said pole member" to -said plurality of pole members-.
 - Claim 16 Line 1, change "the pole member" to -the plurality of pole members-.
 - Claim 10 Line 3, change "the pole member" to -the plurality of pole members-.
 - Claim 10 Line 3, change "said pole member" to -said plurality of pole members-.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) The invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. **Claims 8 and 14 are rejected** under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Pat No 3,313,505 to Petrie.

Regarding claims 8 and 14, Petrie discloses a brace comprising plurality of pole members (15) that includes upper and lower ends with a foot member at the lower

end (the end of the pole); a block member (11 and 24) having a top planar surface (at 36) with a yoke (34) extending upwardly from the top planar surface and a cylindrical stem (32) extending upwardly from the top surface and fitting into a circular opening (Figure 2) in the bottom of the yoke.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. **Claims 9,11-13,15 and 17-19 are rejected** under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Pat No 3,313,505 to Petrie in view of US Pat No 4,971,374 to Lovell et al (Lovell '374).

Petrie fails to disclose that each pole member includes first and second telescopically segments.

Lovell '374 teaches that it is well known in the art to provide a brace that includes a pole member with first and second telescopically segments (60 and 62).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the pole members described by Petrie with telescopically segments, as taught by Lovell '374, in order to provide the pole members at a desire height.

As to claim 11 and 17, Petrie, as modified by Lovell '374, teaches that the foot member includes a non-skid floor-engaging surface (90).

As to claim 12 and 18, Petrie, as modified by Lovell '374, teaches that the skid surface is an elastomeric pad.

As to claim 13 and 19, Petrie, as modified by Lovell '374, teaches that the non-skid surface includes a plurality of dominantly projecting corrugations (92).

7. Claims 10 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Pat No 3,313,505 to Petrie in view of US Pat No 2,330,105 to Barrows.

Petrie fails to disclose that the plurality of pole members are connected to the block member by means of introducing the pole member to a circular opening at the block member. Petrie discloses that the pole members (15) are secured to the block member (11) by means of passing a projection into the circular opening of the pole member.

Barrows teaches that it is well known in the art to secure a pole member (23 and 24) to a block member (19) by introducing the pole member into a circular aperture (21) in the bottom surface of the block (19).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to introduce the pole member into an aperture at the block member in order to secure the pole member into the block member, as taught by Barrows, since the reversal of components in a prior art reference, where there is no disclosed significance to such reversal, is a design consideration within the skill of the art.

Response to Arguments

8. After further search and consideration, a new rejection to the claims has been made on the record in view of Petrie, alone or as modified by Lovell '374 and Barrows.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carlos Lugo whose telephone number 571-272-7058.

The examiner can normally be reached on 9-6pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Glessner can be reached on 571-272-6843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-272-7049.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-5771.

C.L.

Carlos Lugo
Patent Examiner
AU 3676

February 3, 2006.


BRIAN E. GLESSNER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER